

S*T*O*P VAWA STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2017-2020

PRIORITIES, GOALS, & OBJECTIVES

Law Enforcement:

Priorities

- Providing specialized culturally-sensitive (to include deaf and hard of hearing) training/retraining, approved by the Office on Violence Against Women, the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault/the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, in intimate partner violence¹, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking to include dispatchers
- Provide ongoing training on identifying the predominant aggressor and decreasing dual arrest
- Strengthening, refreshing, and retraining for the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) and Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams (DVFRT) and encouraging active participation
- Enhancing and expanding the prioritization of warrants related to sex trafficking data collection information technology
- Providing mandatory training on certification for the U Visa and T Visa
- Providing mandatory coordination with the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, or other approved agencies for training
- Providing domestic violence & sexual assault specialized units and/or advocate positions (such as, Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants, bilingual officers, sexual assault crime investigators, domestic violence coordinators/investigators, sex trafficking advocates, etc.)
- Providing Trauma-Informed Response (including services, policies, training, and certification)
- Maintaining participation and continue to develop in Sexual Assault Response Teams in jurisdictions that do not have a fully developed team

Goals and Objectives

- Continue, by county, intensive training and coordination regarding Lethality Assessment Program implementation
- Provide training to Law Enforcement statewide regarding laws and policies
- Develop and support a Sexual Assault Response Teams for each jurisdiction
- Support ongoing specialized Sexual Assault trainers
- Development of new policies, Memorandum of Understandings, and partnerships between law enforcement agencies and victim service providers to coordinate victim services to include

¹ Through discussions with agencies that participated in updating the Maryland STIOP Implementation Plan 2017-2020 (Goal, Objectives, & Priorities), consensus was made to utilize the term Intimate Partner Violence instead of Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence is utilized for the purpose of staff positions and units within entities.

College/Universities (Title IX) to coordinate victim services. Victim service providers must receive fair compensation for their work in these partnerships.

- On-going comprehensive intimate partner violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking training to law enforcement statewide
- Statewide expansion of specialized sexual assault trainers statewide
- Provide Lethality Assessment Program and Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team coordination across the state
- New and expanded specialized domestic violence and sexual assault staffing/units within all major jurisdictions/agencies
- Implementation of coordinated policies/partnerships between law enforcement agencies and victim service providers to coordinate victim services
- Develop policies and informing officers on the use of language access programs

Prosecution:

Priorities

- Providing mandatory training on certification for the U Visa and T Visa, including for judges, court commissioners, and appropriate staff whom are certifiers.
- Providing specialized and expanded culturally competent & bilingual staffing (including for deaf and hard of hearing)
- Providing specialized and expanded culturally competent services (including deaf and hard of hearing)
- Maintaining participation in Sexual Assault Response Teams
- Providing training in intimate partner violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, sex-trafficking, and prosecutorial best practices
- Providing Trauma-Informed Response (including services, policies, training, and certification)

Goals and Objectives

- Maintain and enhance existing dedicated domestic violence & sexual assault units to include investigators and other support staff
- Create dedicated intimate partner violence & sexual assault positions
- Continue the establishment of Sexual Assault Response Teams in each jurisdiction and participation on these Teams
- Maintain and support intimate partner violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking training for appropriate parties (prosecutors, judges, police, interpreters, translators, etc.) with emphasis on lethality assessments, cultural sensitivity, cross training, case management, and referrals (Abuser Intervention Programs and Victim)
- Support intimate partner violence & sexual assault units and/or personnel in each jurisdiction

- Continue and expand training on intimate partner violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking for appropriate parties (prosecutors, judges, police, Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Room personnel, Court Commissioner, etc.) with emphasis on lethality assessments, cultural sensitivity, cross training, case management, and referrals (Abuser Intervention Programs and Victim)

Victim Services:

Priorities

- Maintaining intimate partner violence & sexual assault core services, with an emphasis on safety
- Enhancing culturally sensitive services to include all populations regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, and/or religion (including but not limited to, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, limited English proficiency, multi-ethnic, Latino/Hispanic, Black, immigrant/refugee,
- Developing, maintaining and enhancing services to include the disabled, and deaf and hard of hearing populations
- Offering hospital-based services that ensure immediate crisis services to victims (including referral to community based-programs)
- Provide direct immediate face-to-face advocacy-based Crisis Intervention, Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs, and make Victim Advocates available at SAFE exams
- Providing long-term support for victims (including counseling, housing, transportation and transitional support, case management, medication, advocacy, psychiatry)
- Developing safety planning
- Ensuring victim confidentiality and privacy
- Providing civil legal representation
- Providing Trauma-Informed Response (including services, policies, training, and certification)
- Developing and promoting state, local, or tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to intimate partner violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking, and strangulation
- Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams and/or Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils, or other similar coordinated community responses to intimate partner violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking
- Developing and strengthening policies, protocols, best practices, and training for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and/or sex trafficking cases; and the appropriate treatment of victims
- Maintaining advocacy-based case management to include community-based advocacy programs, responses, and accompaniment

- Maintaining advocacy-based hospital services that ensure immediate services to victims including referrals to community-based programs inclusive of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking
- Strengthening, refreshing, and training the Lethality Assessment Program in hospitals
- Establishing Lethality Assessment Programs in new hospitals

Goals and Objectives

- Provide required and specialized services to all victims including culturally linguistic, trauma-informed services, and culturally specific to include the following:
 - Receipt and response to hotline calls on a 24-hour basis;
 - Short-term safe accommodation for the victim and any minor children;
 - Crisis counseling for the victim, family members or friends to alleviate the immediate crisis;
 - Information and referral services as needed to community resources;
 - Ongoing counseling;
 - Legal services for both intimate partner violence and sexual assault (i.e. protective order representation);
 - Accompaniment for legal or medical/hospital services;
 - Assistance and support for the victim in using mental health, social, and medical resources
 - Supportive services to help meet the need for housing, employment, education, parenting skills, childcare, health care, and transportation.
 - Provide education and training to the community to include outreach activities designed to reach unserved and underserved victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault.
 - Outreach to immigrant populations
- Increase domestic violence and sexual assault advocates and other specialized personnel to adequately respond to the rising number of referrals from increased use of the Lethality Assessment Program statewide
- Create stronger partnerships and/or develop MOUs with collaborating agencies
- Promote and maintain hospital-based services to victims including hospital-based victim advocacy and clinical forensic programs for sexual assault (SAFE) and intimate partner violence
- Enhance and maintain required and specialized services to victims which are culturally-linguistic, culturally specific, disabled, and/or deaf & hard of hearing
- Enhance, develop, and promote partnerships between victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecution, etc.
- Develop and enhance training to law enforcement on intimate partner violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking

Courts:

Priorities

- Providing specialized staffing – bilingual and/or multi-lingual court and deaf & hard of hearing personnel such as court advocates, interpreters, or investigators
- Providing victim access to courts
- Providing central repository/databases that support victim safety and confidentiality such as Victim Information and Notification Everyday Protective Orders
- Providing outreach & education to include judicial and commissioner training
- Providing training for judges and magistrate judges, court commissioners, and appropriate staff, related to intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking, dating violence, and stalking
- Providing representation for victims in criminal and civil cases

Goals and Objectives

- Continue and increase representation for victims in criminal and civil cases in every jurisdiction in Maryland
- Continue and increase victim-centered training for judicial and court personnel

Discretionary:

Priorities

- Maintaining capacity building for dedicated intimate partner violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking victim services
- Providing specialized training intimate partner violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking to include compliance with best practices and new laws regarding victims
- Strengthening and coordinating the Lethality Assessment Program statewide and enhancing the use of the Lethality Assessment Program to promote an effective coordinated community response
- Enhancing and maintaining county/jurisdiction-based Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams.
- Maintaining core services
- Providing specialized training in intimate partner violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking initiatives
- Coordinating community response in the form of local coordinating councils or development of multidisciplinary teams, direct services, and family justice centers
- Providing Trauma-Informed Response (including services, policies, training, and certification)

Goals and Objectives

- Continue expansion of Coordinating Councils per jurisdiction to involve hospital-based domestic violence programs, inclusive of Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and other coalitions throughout the state
- Local Sexual Assault Response Teams established in every jurisdiction to include the required minimum representation of: law enforcement, prosecution, community-based advocacy, and forensics
- Enhance training and coordination on the Lethality Assessment Program to first responders, service providers, allied professionals, and others as necessary.
- Continue to expand services to limited English proficient victims, and other underserved populations (including for deaf and hard of hearing)
- Continue victim-centered training and advocacy initiatives in coordination with other stakeholders.
- Continue support to the local Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils